



News, Events and Information

Welcome to the first edition of the Get Green Columbus E-newsletter! An initiative of Mayor Michael B. Coleman, Get Green Columbus is managed by Environmental Steward Erin Miller to implement sustainability initiatives within City operations and for the larger community. The most recent addition to the office is Leslie Strader, Assistant Environmental Steward. The team welcomes your ideas, comments and feedback and looks forward to working towards a more sustainable Columbus with you.

Columbus and Partners to Launch Rain Barrel Pilot

Over one hundred households in Clintonville will take part in a pilot rain barrel project, thanks to a partnership between the Columbus Department of Public Utilities (DPU), Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW) and EarthMinded, a subsidiary of Greif, Inc., a worldwide packaging company headquartered in Delaware, Ohio.

The project involves 137 homes in an area where rainwater inflow and infiltration during heavy rain has caused sewer capacity problems. Starting in March, FLOW will distribute a total of 250 rain barrels and will monitor the project throughout the year, including post-installation surveys in November. Each rain barrel will also include a soaker hose, allowing participants to easily use barrel contents instead of tap water for watering lawns and gardens in dry weather.

This project is part of a continued partnership between DPU and FLOW to help distribute rain barrels. More information about the cost-share program available to Columbus residents can be found at www.olentangywatershed.org.

Columbus Curbside Recycling Plan Proposed

Just last week Mayor Michael B. Coleman released [Green Memo II](#) outlining sustainability goals for the next five years, including a comprehensive curbside recycling program for single-family households by 2012. Mayor Coleman announced a community process will be used to gather public input to determine the best way to achieve this goal. The mayor said the starting point for the discussion will be a proposal to combine recycling and yard waste collection on a rotating schedule.

Mayor Coleman believes combining recycling and yard waste collection would make sense for several reasons:

- During the winter and other months, there's little yard waste to collect, yet trucks travel through the city, wasting time, money and energy. Combining yard waste and recycling services on a rotating schedule would be more cost-effective, energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly.

- Those who don't recycle at all today will be able to recycle conveniently at their curbsides at no additional cost, and those who pay for curbside recycling today will no longer have to do so.
- If Columbus can divert as much as 35 percent of our waste from its landfill, the city could save more than \$5 million in landfill costs.

Call for Nominations: 5th Annual Central Ohio Emeralds

Nominations are now being accepted for SWACO's 5th Annual Central Ohio Emeralds. Every year SWACO honors the best and most innovative ideas in waste reduction, recycling, and litter prevention programs. The premier green awards program in Central Ohio will honor communities, organizations, businesses, schools, and individuals in six additional categories; Leadership, Partnership, Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Environmental Education, and Litter Clean up. SWACO's Fifth Annual Central Ohio Emeralds will be presented at the Aladdin Shrine Center, 3850 Stelzer Rd, (across from Easton), May 13, 2010.

Award nominations must arrive at SWACO by midnight March 26, 2010. Nominations can be made at: <http://www.swaco.org/EmeraldNominationForm.aspx> or in written form by contacting SWACO at 614-871-5100 for more information.

The Central Ohio Emerald awards are presented by The Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio. SWACO serves Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio with innovative waste reduction and recycling projects. More on SWACO at www.swaco.org.

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